

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

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REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for 1945

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Southwold.

I beg to submit, as instructed by the Ministry of Health, a modified report for the year 1945.

POPULATION AND HOUSES.

The population figure for the year 1945 (as supplied by the Registrar General) was 1756. The following table shows the population of Southwold each year during the war:-

Michaelmas	1940 -	795
December	1941 -	1258
"	1942 -	1299
"	1943 -	1487
"	1944 -	1662
"	1945 -	1992

BIRTHS.

There were 31 live births (18 males and 13 females) during the year. Three of these were illegitimate. (1 male and two females).

Birth Rate (per 1000) for 1945	
Southwold	17.65
England & Wales	16.1
London	15.7

DEATHS. There were 41 deaths - 17 males and 24 females.

Death Rate (per 1000 population)

Southwold	Total	23.34
"	Male	9.68
"	Female	13.66
England & Wales	Total	11.4
London		13.8

Ages at Death.

Male Female

under 1 year	-	1
1 - 5 years	-	1
5 - 15 "	-	-
15 - 30 "	2	1
30 - 40 "	1	-
40 - 50 "	2	-
50 - 70 "	3	4
70 - 80 "	6	6
over 80 "	3	11

Three of the females were aged 91, 93 and 93 respectively.

It will be seen that the comparatively high death rate of Southwold was due to the mortality among elderly people, 26 being over 70 years at the time of death.

HOUSES No new houses were erected during the year. A large number occupied by the Military were de-requisitioned and reconcentrated. The Council has an approved scheme in hand for the erection of 48 houses.

PUBLIC NURSING. A District Nurse, who also undertakes inspection of Tuberculous Cases and Infant Welfare for the County Sanitary Authorities, is provided by the Southwold, Wangford and District Nursing Association.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The Southwold Ambulance Section of the British Red Cross Society provides a motor ambulance available day and night for any service required. The Town Council makes a grant of £10 per annum towards its upkeep.

The members of the Southwold Red Cross Detachments give their services, but a small charge is made for the use of the Ambulance except in cases of patients who cannot afford to pay, when the whole service is gratuitous. This service continued to prove adequate and satisfactory.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC. This was abolished by the County Council some years ago and has not since been re-opened.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE. This is undertaken by the Southwold Hospital.

HOSPITALS. Provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council:-

1. TUBERCULOSIS: Hospital treatment of Pulmonary cases is provided by the County Council at the Ipswich Sanatorium.

2. OTHER DISEASES. Under a County Joint Hospital Scheme, accommodation is provided for cases of infectious disease other than tubercle and Smallpox, at Lowestoft Borough Isolation Hospital and Stowmarket Isolation Hospital.

3. SMALLPOX. Accommodation is provided by the County Sanitary Authorities.

4. VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS:- The Southwold and District Hospital serves the Borough and surrounding Parishes. Under War conditions the present accommodation is 20 beds. Ample room is available for casualties.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. The following cases have occurred during the year:-

Acute Primary Pneumonia	5	Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	5	Infectious	3
Tuberculosis(Pulmonary)	3	Hepatitis	
" (Non- ")	4	Measles	6

TUBERCULOSIS. Three cases of Pulmonary and 4 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, One of the Pulmonary cases died.

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VENEREAL DISEASES. Facilities are available for the treatment of Venereal Disease at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital at Ipswich and the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital at Lowestoft.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. On December 31st, 1945 there were on the register of children under 15 years of age:-

under 5	143	Immunised	41
5 - 15 years	<u>225</u>	"	<u>154</u>
Total	<u>368</u>	Total	<u>195</u>

giving a percentage of 53% immunised.

During the year 19 children were immunised in Southwold.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Meat. Slaughtering is not now carried out within the Borough, the meat being killed at Lowestoft and Beccles where it is inspected before being brought into the town.

(b) Milk. The milk supply is both ample in quantity and of satisfactory quality. The dairies have been inspected and found clean.

(c) General Food and Provisions. Under an Order made by the Divisional Food Officer, food shops and food have been inspected and certain foodstuffs, including canned foods, have been condemned as unfit for sale.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. The water supply continues to be adequate and of good quality and practically all the houses have their own supply direct from the main.

Drainage, sewerage and arrangements for the disposal of house refuse are satisfactory.

Various premises have been inspected during the year and defects rectified. Instances of dirty premises have been reported and satisfactorily dealt with.

SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR AND SHIPPING. Since 1939 the Port of Southwold has been closed to shipping but is now available for local fishing boats and vessels of small draught.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. J. S. Hurst, Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his very great assistance at all times - also the office staff for much kindly and ungrudging help.

H.W.Bolling /

M. B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.
Borough of Southwold.

